

ESGCI

International School of
Management Paris

Powered by
upGrad

Doctorate of Business Administration

Specialization in Leadership and AI Strategy

24 Months

Accreditation & Membership



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About upGrad

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ABOUT

ESGCI International School of Management, Paris

ESGCI International School of Management Paris, is a renowned management school. Specializing in management studies, the school is unique with its international orientation. Recognized by the French state under the Ministry of Higher Education Research and Innovation, ESGCI International School of Management Paris has more than 20% of international students of 65 different nationalities. The Qualiopi certification (given by the French Accreditation Committee) ensures that ESGCI International School of Management Paris caters only to high-quality training and skills development. ESGCI International School of Management Paris benefits from the many strengths of Galileo Global Education, the largest higher education group in Europe. The group is present in over 91 campuses, in 13 countries and has over 200,000 enrolled students. Their prestigious schools include the Paris School of Business (PSB), ESGCI International School of Management Paris, Cours Florent and Atelier de Sèvres in France, Instituto de Estudios Universitarios in Mexico, and Istituto Marangoni in Italy, and so on.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



**QUALIOPI and French Ministry of Higher Education
Research & Innovation Accreditation**



**Live sessions and 1:1 thesis supervision by faculty from
ESGCI International School of Management Paris**



**Complete your DBA within an accelerated timeline of 24 months
with our unique learning experience so your research stays
relevant and your "Dr." title arrives sooner**



**180 European credit transfer and accumulation
system (ECTS)**

Specialization in Leadership and AI Strategy

The ESGCI DBA brings a cutting-edge AI Specialisation that equips leaders to navigate complexity, make sharper decisions, and drive impact in an AI-driven business environment. This specialisation is designed for senior professionals who want to leverage AI to enhance strategic thinking and leadership effectiveness, without getting into technical complexity.

As organisations increasingly embed AI into core business functions, the specialisation focuses on applying AI to structure thinking, explore possibilities, and bring greater clarity and rigor to decision-making.

What You'll Learn

• Leadership in an AI-Driven Context	Understand how AI influences decisions and strengthen executive judgment
• Strategic Foresight and Opportunity Framing	Use AI to explore possibilities, evaluate options, and define high-quality opportunities
• AI in Executive Decision-Making and Communication	Integrate AI into reasoning, synthesis, and leadership communication

Format: 18 hours of live sessions and 6 hours of live activity-based workshops

Meet the Expert



Jean-Sébastien Klein

AI Expert and Digital Transformation Leader

- Founder, Tout Se Transforme, advising organisations on digital transformation, AI, and management
- Over 15 years of experience in organisational transformation and strategy
- Former Deputy Director General and COO, leading large teams and business operations
- Experience across AI, ecommerce, digital strategy, and organisational design
- Speaker and thought leader on AI in business and transformation

What makes this Program Unique?

5 day-Global Immersion in Paris



Explore the Heart of Paris

This immersive experience extends far beyond traditional in-person lectures, offering a blend of academic enrichment and cultural exploration.

Personalized Academic Guidance

Receive individualized 1:1 dissertation guidance from our esteemed professors.

Discover and Learn

Explore iconic tourist destinations and key industry sites to enrich your understanding and provide real-world insights into various fields of study

Network and Collaborate

This immersion is an opportunity to build lasting relationships, encourage collaboration, and exchange knowledge.

Doctorate of Business Administration Degree



 Doctorate of Business Administration Degree

Upon approval of your final dissertation, you will be awarded the esteemed Doctorate of Business Administration, the culmination of your dedication and scholarly pursuit.

Interim Research **Milestone-Based** Certificates



Certificate of Research

Earn your Certificate of Research upon approval of your research proposal, literature review, and draft methodology, marking a significant early milestone in your academic journey.



Certificate of Advanced Research

Receive the Certificate of Advanced Research after your data analysis chapter is approved, signifying advanced scholarly achievement and research expertise.

FACULTY



Dr. Josse Roussel

- Business Administration professor at Paris School of Business, ESGCI, and the University of Paris-8
- Over 30 years of consulting experience; worked with a variety of corporate clients in business administration and leadership, including Qatar Rail, CNP Assurances, Biocoop, and Orange (formerly France Telecom)
- Earned his Ph.D. from the University of Paris-Dauphine
- Has authored 6 books, and published articles in peer-reviewed journals such as Human Resource Planning, The Journal of European and Industrial Training, E-Journal of Digital Enterprise, and others



Dr. Alain Kruger

- Graduated with a PhD in Management Sciences, specializing in cultural influences in consumer behavior, from the University of Bourgogne.
- Led the CODIVA group and managed major automotive brands like Renault, Nissan, Citroën, Volvo, Dacia, and Honda.
- Worked as a marketing consultant in pharmaceutical and automobile industries.
- Authored "Mini Manuel de Marketing" published by Dunod Editions in 2010.
- Contributed several scientific publications during his tenure at Paris Graduate School of Management (ESGCI), School of Management, Paris.

FACULTY



Dr. Yannick Miel

- Completed a PhD in aiding and management control
- Oversees the management system of activities, development of professional certificates, handicap policy, and client experience at Galileo Global Education France
- Serves as an auditor at COFRAC for Qualiopi accreditation, the official quality norm of the French educational sector
- Member of the operational management committee of Galileo Global Education France



Prof. Aparajit Parthasarathy

- Has extensive experience in international marketing, communication, and branding
- Award-winning entrepreneur with work experience in the UK, France, USA, and India
- Successfully launched products and built partnerships and client bases before joining the ESGCI International School of Management, Paris

FACULTY



Prof. Sophie Agulhon

- Worked with 3 branches of the French National Conservatory of Arts and Crafts (Cnam)
- Taught and conducted research at 3 universities; associated with 2 engineering schools and 2 apprenticeship training centers
- Utilizes qualitative research methods including various observations, interviews, experiments, and corpus analyses
- Focuses her research on organization, industrial and cyber risk management, professional training, and the history of management



Dr. Alexandre Eyries

- Holds a Ph.D. from Université de Nice Sophia-Antipolis
- Managed 3 scientific works or journal issues; authored 15 scientific works; published 27 articles in national and international peer-reviewed journals;
- Contributed to 8 chapters of scientific works
- Presented 36 Communications with proceedings at national and international congresses

FACULTY



Dr. Jana Badran

- Holds a Ph.D. from IAE Gustave Eiffel - Paris Est University (UPEC)
- Specializes in Strategic Management, Business Ethics and CSR, and Performance Management
- Panel speaker on “New Economic Wars” at the Arab Thought Foundation
- Invited expert on “Women and Economics”



Dr. Raveendran Narasimhan

- Earned his Ph.D. from Prescott University
- Researcher at the National Insurance Academy, specializing in cyber risk
- Over 23 years of experience in risk management and insurance
- 14 years of experience in advertising and marketing

Program **Journey**



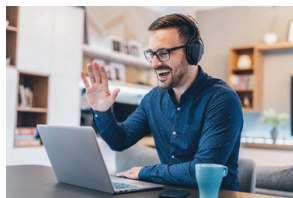
Phase 1 (5 months) **Foundation Phase**



- 4 Foundational Courses
- 2 Optional Courses



Phase 2 (2 months) **Leadership & AI Strategy**



- 3 AI Leadership Courses
- Delivered through Live Sessions and Hands-on Workshops



Phase 3 (17 months) **Dissertation Phase**



- One-on-one guidance
- Final Dissertation Defense

Program Curriculum

FOUNDATION PHASE

INTRODUCTION TO DOCTORAL RESEARCH

- Decoding research
- Research design decisions and strategies
- Applying the research process
- Business and management research essentials

FORMULATING RESEARCH TOPIC AND LITERATURE REVIEW

- Formulating a research question
- Writing a research proposal
- Writing a literature review

QUANTITATIVE METHODS

- Descriptive statistics,
- Difference in means
- Correlation, linear regression models
- Panel data models, Logit and Probit models

QUALITATIVE METHODS

- Methods and fundamentals of qualitative research
- Choose qualitative research methods
- Grounded theory, discourse analysis, feminist and post-colonial studies and historical research
- Qualitative data interpretation and coding
- Qualitative comparative analysis

DATA COLLECTION TECHNIQUES (OPTIONAL)

- Fundamentals of quantitative data collection and secondary data sources
- Collecting and evaluating primary data
- Collecting primary qualitative data through observation
- Collecting primary qualitative data through interviews

ACCESS TO DATA (OPTIONAL)

- Negotiating access to data
- Research ethics and managing data

Program Curriculum

LEADERSHIP & AI STRATEGY

Leadership Judgment In An AI-Driven World

- Understanding how AI influences decisions and outcomes
- Identifying limits of automation and where leadership judgment matters
- Evaluating AI-driven insights, risks, and biases
- Framing the right executive questions for AI-led decisions

AI-Enabled Strategic Foresight And Opportunity Framing

- Using AI to expand strategic thinking and explore opportunities
- Generating and testing hypotheses using AI-supported analysis
- Evaluating opportunities through structured reasoning
- Framing high-quality strategic and business opportunities

AI-Augmented Executive Judgment And Influence

- Strengthening strategic reasoning and decision-making
- Using AI for synthesis, sense-making, and insight generation
- Enhancing executive communication and thought leadership

DISSERTATION PHASE

MILESTONES:

- Research Proposal, Literature Review, Draft Methodology, Data Analysis, Final Dissertation

LEARNING INTERVENTIONS:

- 1:1 Thesis supervision sessions, doubt resolution sessions and live sessions

PROGRAM DETAILS



Program Start Date

Please refer to the website



Program Duration

24 Months



Eligibility

Master's Degree (or equivalent) or Bachelor's Degree with at least 3+ years of work experience



Fees

Please refer to the website



Weekly commitment

12-15 hours/week

PwC DIRECTORSHIP & BOARD ADVISORY CERTIFICATE

This program is an optional add-on offering, and learners may choose to opt in upon receiving the enrollment form from upGrad

The Directorship & Board Advisory Certification is a specialized executive program designed for professionals aiming to transition into board-level roles. Delivered in collaboration with PwC India, this immersive program cultivates strategic thinking, ethical governance fluency, and boardroom confidence through live sessions, real-world simulations, and expert-led masterclasses.

The program comprises approximately 20 hours of live lectures, conducted through masterclasses led by PwC experts. The batch schedule will be communicated to learners well in advance.

Program Outcomes

Practical Board Skills:

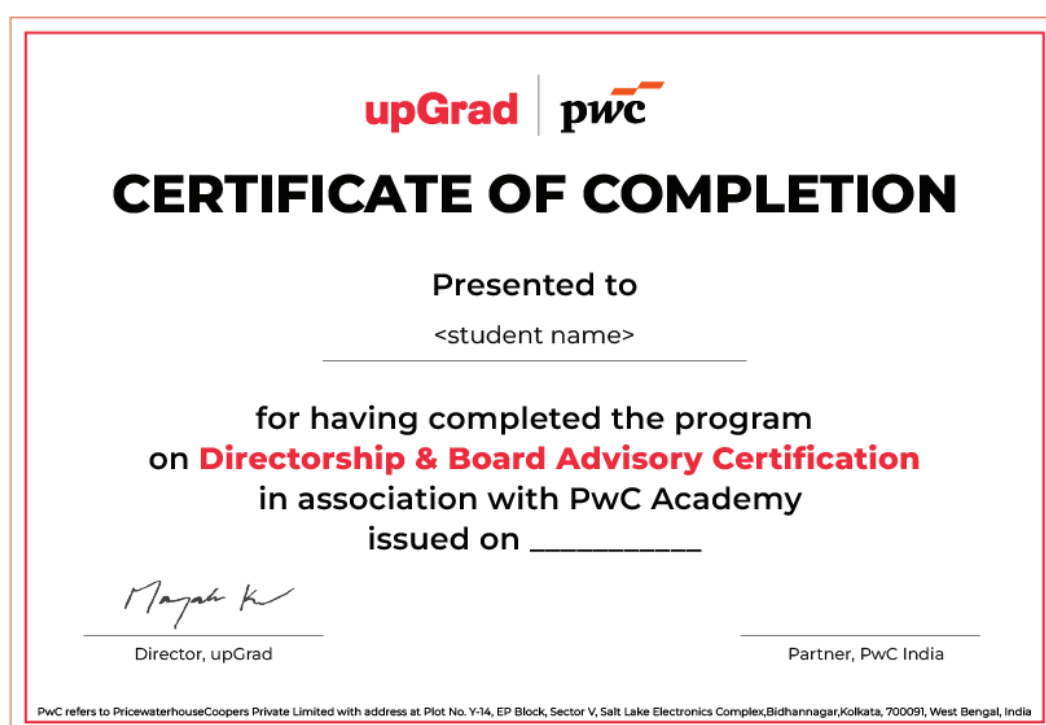
Develop boardroom fluency, strategic thinking, and key frameworks necessary for effective boardroom preparedness.

Stakeholder Influence:

Learn how to manage stakeholder expectations, enhance investor relations, and ensure strategic alignment with organizational vision and values.

Governance & Compliance:

Gain deep insights into Indian and global corporate governance standards, legal responsibilities, ethical conduct, and risk mitigation strategies.



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW



An Overview of the Modern Board

Introduction to the Board of Directors and modern boardroom dynamics, covering roles and responsibilities, legal obligations, disqualifications, powers, ethical frameworks, “officer in default,” D&O insurance, and other safeguards.



Corporate Governance, Ethics & Regulatory Frameworks

Explore global and Indian governance standards, best practices, participation frameworks, taxonomy, transparency, integrity, and ESG foundations.



Finance & Risk for Board Oversight

Understand strategic finance and risk, including directors’ responsibilities, red flags in financials, audit committees, internal controls, and related obligations.



Digital, Cyber & M&A Readiness

Examine the board’s role in digital transformation, AI, cybersecurity, and M&A evaluation, including regulator perspectives.



Independent Directors – Risks and Rewards

Learn about regulatory requirements for Independent Directors, enrollment in the Independent Director Databank, qualifications and disqualifications, code of conduct, related party transactions, and director responsibilities.



Stakeholder Engagement & Investor Relations

Master stakeholder mapping, effective communication, board dynamics, decision-making processes, investor expectations, and strategic engagement.



Final Project: Board Simulation & Readiness Presentation

A hands-on simulation project to demonstrate boardroom readiness and application of program learnings.

*(Topics are indicative and subject to minor changes.)

PwC PROGRAM EXPERTS



Manisha Narang

Manisha Narang, Subject Matter Expert, is a seasoned Company Secretary with over 20 years of expertise in corporate governance, regulatory compliance, board advisory, and cross-border business structuring. She specializes in guiding boards, managing risk, enabling regulatory clarity, and supporting M&A, NBFC licensing, and global market entry for leading organizations.



Shekhar Chopra

Shekhar Chopra, Subject Matter Expert, is a qualified Company Secretary with 15+ years of experience in corporate governance, M&A, board advisory, and regulatory compliance. He has led governance frameworks, board evaluations, risk management, and shareholder engagement across top firms including Deloitte, EY, and SRL Diagnostics.

*The PwC Directorship & Board Advisory Certification is an optional paid add-on. List of all faculty teaching in the PwC program will be shared with the students before the start of the sessions.

SELECTION PROCESS



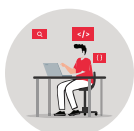
STEP 1: Complete your Application

Fill the details required for your successful application.



STEP 2: Review and Shortlisting of Suitable Candidates

The admissions committee will review your application. Upon selection, an offer letter will be sent to you confirming your admission to the Doctorate in Business Administration program.



STEP 3: Claim your Doctoral Candidacy

Claim your candidacy by paying the block amount. You may also avail assistance from our loan partners. Your journey to getting a 'Dr.' title begins now!



*The PwC Directorship & Board Advisory Certification is an optional paid add-on. List of all faculty teaching in the PwC program will be shared with the students before the start of the sessions.

ABOUT UPGRAD

upGrad is an online education platform to help individuals develop their professional potential in the most engaging learning environment through a wide range of programs designed to improve their expertise. upGrad collaborates with top-class universities across the world including the University of Arizona, Duke CE, IIM Kozhikode, IIIT Bangalore, Deakin Business School, Wharton, Liverpool John Moores University, and University of Maryland among others. upGrad has been Ranked #1 in the LinkedIn Top Start-ups for four consecutive years, it made it to the GSV Global EdTech 50 List 2020, it received the Best Communication and Teaching Platform in the Education Innovation Awards 2020.



Our aim is simple:

We strive to create high-impact, on-campus hands-on experiences that prepare students for meaningful and productive careers.



Ronnie Screwvala

Co-founder and
Executive Chairman

upGrad

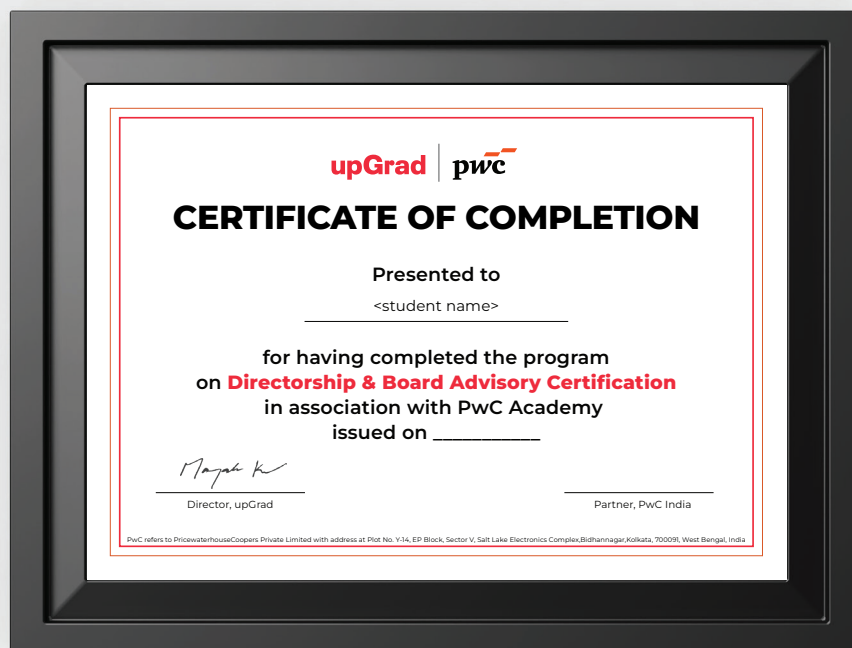
The upGrad Advantage:

Six leadership outcomes only we deliver

We provide a full range of post-doctoral services. Much like a concierge, we work tirelessly in the background so you can focus on your doctoral experience, while we open up a bouquet of stellar outcomes for you.

1. Boardroom Consultant

Earn an add on certificate of PwC Directorship and Board Advisory, and be an officially recognised, force-to-reckon-with, in the eyes of board nomination committees and executive search firms. Signal your fluency across board-level matters to the world of corporate governance. From risk and compliance, to mergers and acquisitions, to environmental and societal governance.



2. Published Author

Transform your doctoral dissertation into a book or in a journal, and position yourself as a published thought leader in your domain. Become a top voice even in the real world. Be quoted by trade media, and be invited to panels at conferences. Learn storytelling from published authors. Turn your “someday I’ll write a book about this” into today!

Published Work by Our DBA Students

The Ethical Compass: An upGrad Learner Explores Decision Science in India's Business Landscape

[Source](#)

Govern Like a Twin: Simulate. Validate. Elevate: says upGrad Learner in his Thesis

[Source](#)

Disruptive Innovation: Why Leading Companies Thrive or Fail

[Source](#)

Frugal Innovation: How Emerging Space Markets are Redefining the Space Race

[Source](#)

3. Industry Professor

Give back your entire career's worth of wisdom, and inspire the leaders of tomorrow. Teach as an industry expert, in top UGC-recognized universities, by seamlessly pivoting to academia without stepping away from your professional role. Cement your legacy as an icon who not only led the industry but inspired the next generation.

4. Product Creator

Get a clear, practical path from tech leaders who've turned ideas into products. Productise your ideas and turn concepts into business growth. Spot opportunities to solve real challenges using emerging tech! Design winning strategies, prototype and pilot quickly with no-code tools to earn leadership buy-in. Track ROI, create impact!

5. Patented Innovator

Protect the innovations born out of your doctoral research, with our network of top tier law firms specialising in Intellectual Property. From thorough patentability analysis to defining a unique defensible space, to drafting claims using precise legal language to build an ironclad IP that transforms your brilliance into bankable value.

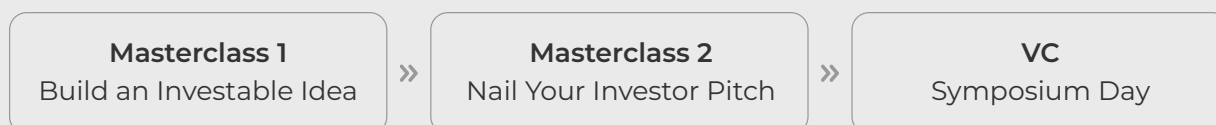
The upGrad advantage for Patent Grants



6. Funded Entrepreneur

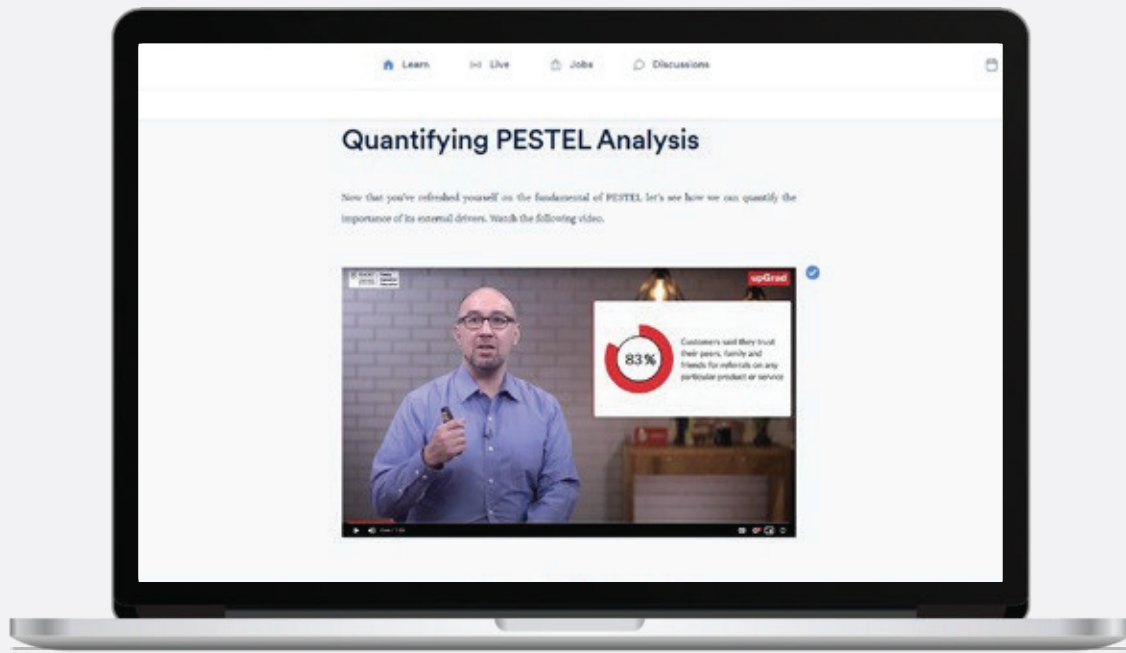
Get direct mentorship from established VCs and Founders. Master the art of pitching your business via Silicon Valley storytelling and business models made to withstand the toughest of investor scrutiny. Then culminate your journey at our exclusive VC Symposium Day where you'll get to pitch to real investors with chequebooks in hand!

Your Roadmap from Vision to Venture Funding

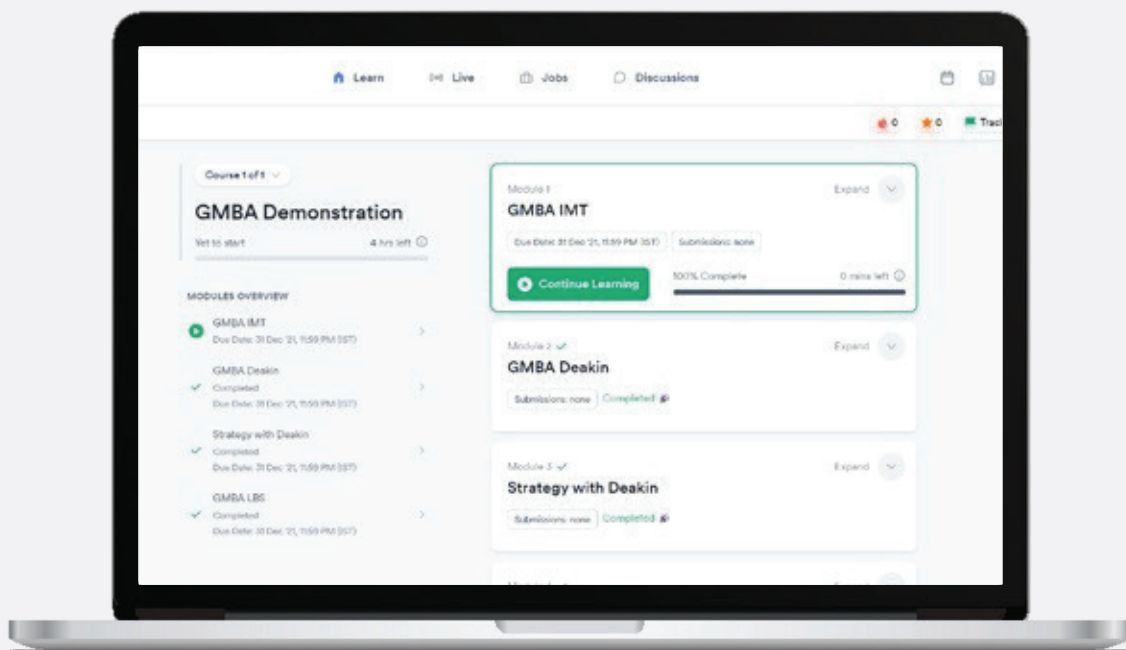


**Certain features may come at an additional cost*

GLIMPSE OF THE UPGRAD PLATFORM



Teaching Faculty



Learning Platform Navigation

upGrad

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For further details, **contact**



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